



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

Annual Report 2024/25



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Table of Contents



Statement from the Chairperson	2
Report of the Chief Executive Officer.....	3
Corporate Governance.....	6
A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024.....	8
Data Protection.....	10
Allegations notified to the National Office between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025	11
Initiatives and Advice Offered by the National Board	15
Training and Support.....	19
Operational Plan and Objectives	27
Board and Other Corporate Information	28



Chair's Report



The annual report 2024/25 of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland goes to press in the immediate aftermath of the election of Pope Leo XIV to the papacy. He can be assured of our best wishes and prayers, and we hope that child safeguarding remains a priority. For the Church in Ireland, and indeed the wider Church, it is imperative that we maintain our focus so that complacency does not creep in.

Much has changed within the National Board Office, and, as Directors, we remain grateful to, and very impressed by, the work which Aidan Gordon and his colleagues, in particular Lyn McDermott, Imelda Ashe and Ann Cunningham have done in seamlessly filling the shoes of Teresa Devlin, Peter Kiernan, and Dr Niall Moore. We await the appointment of a Director of Safeguarding.

In respect of the work of the Office, it is a time for the bedding down of the revised Child Safeguarding Policy, and providing training with that aim. There is tremendous work being done on the training front.

Since our last annual report, Garrett Sheehan has stepped down as Chairperson, and we offer him heartfelt thanks for being such a steady and skilled Chair of the Board. We also said farewell to Sr Nuala O'Gorman and Mr Jim O'Higgins, both very valued Director colleagues. Sr Nuala bringing her particular perspective from her experience of engaging with survivors of abuse, and Jim with his incisive legal brain. We will miss them both.

On a more sombre note, we learned of the death of Mr Michael Ringrose, a valued Director colleague for many years, and, more recently Sr Colette Stevenson, whose impact on Child Safeguarding in the country was evidenced by the huge turnout at her funeral. If the words "fierce" and "treasure"

can be used about the same person, they apply very much to Sr Colette.

We welcome the report of the review of Child Safeguarding by the RSM Team, and we look forward to engaging with our Members, and other interested parties, in discussing the implementation of its recommendations.

We look forward very much to our Conference in Athlone from September 3rd - 5th, and, as can be seen from its programme, our focus is very much on Transitional Justice. This is a complex area, we have much to learn, very valuable work is being done, and we welcome the opportunity to bring together many of those who are developing significant expertise in the area, and we expect both a stimulating but also challenging series of presentations and discussions.

I might finish by extending sincere thanks to my fellow Directors whose commitment is unquestionable, and who have been both clear minded and supportive in equal measure.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Keith Holmes
Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
MCRN: 14463
June 2025



CEO Report



Since our last annual report in June 2024, we have seen significant changes in personnel within the National Office. In March of 2024 our current Director of Training and Support, Lyn McDermott, began her role and took over from her predecessor, Niall Moore. I took up post in April and thankfully was able to work directly with the former CEO, Teresa Devlin, before she moved on to pastures new. We also lost the services of Peter Kieran who retired from his role as Director of Safeguarding in this time, so we are grateful for the continuity and support provided by Ann Cunningham and Imelda Ashe who kept both Lyn and I right on the functioning of the office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the former staff of the NBSCCCI for their work and dedication in ensuring the constituent members of the Catholic Church in Ireland benefitted from excellent policy, advice and guidance in their efforts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. They certainly set high standards for their successors to aspire to! I would also like to wish them all well in their future endeavours.

I would also like to thank our former Chair, Mr Garrett Sheehan, for his support during the handover period. His wisdom and advice was invaluable to me, and I would like to wish him a long and healthy retirement.

We hope that by the time you read this report we will have appointed our new Director of Safeguarding to replace Peter. I am sure you will give them the same support and assistance we have all experienced since we took up our posts, and as team we look forward to continuing the collaborative work of ensuring our Child Safeguarding policy and guidance meet the highest standards.

You will note from details contained in this annual report that there have been a significant number of new allegations notified to the NBSCCCI (252 in 2023/24; 385 in 2024/25). This represents an increase of over 50% in the number of new allegations notified to the NBSCCCI and the highest number of any reporting period since we began publishing the figures annually in 2009. This increase in notifications was predominantly from September of 2024 and coincided with a series of media releases in the early autumn of 2024 following the release of the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Day and Boarding Schools run by Religious. These events in September 2024 appear to have given individuals renewed strength to tell of their experiences. While this is undoubtedly an extremely difficult undertaking for those who have suffered any type of abuse as a child, it is good to be able to begin to address that trauma and we are grateful for the production of such a comprehensive and far-reaching report by Mary O'Toole SC.

Another significant event in the reporting period was the launch and implementation in June 2024 of the revised Church policy on Child Safeguarding *A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024* alongside the revised guidance. This policy and guidance, the third iteration of a child safeguarding policy from the NBSCCCI, was brought about through collaboration with multiple stakeholders and was 24 months in development. The previous seven standards have been incorporated into the three current standards and reflect the developments in Civil and Canon Law since the publication of the previous Policy in 2016. The 2024 Policy is rooted in Gospel values, promotes the inviolable rights of children and reflects ministry with children based on national law, canon law and government

regulation. Anecdotally it has been well received across the Catholic Church in Ireland and the various Church bodies have been taking steps to ensure it is embedded in practice where ministry with children is taking place, as reflected in their annual self-audits. The success of that enterprise will be assessed further when we embark on a new series of independent reviews and audits of Church bodies in early 2026.

This annual report will provide details of much of the work the NBSCCCI has engaged in over the past twelve months. We have a number of roles, which include advising individual Church bodies on best child safeguarding practice, which we do through providing case management advice, training, and policy review. This year, advice was requested on 287 occasions. Page 16 of the report will outline the breakdown of advice offered, by the relevant Standard. A significant number (104) related to case management matters (formerly Standards 2, 3 and 4) and in line with the new policy this advice now falls under the standard *Responding Pastorally and Reporting according to Civil and Canon Law*.

The reporting year 2023/24 was our final year for completing and reporting on Reviews of Safeguarding practice in dioceses and across religious orders under the 2016 child safeguarding policy. All of the review reports can be read on <https://www.safeguarding.ie/publications/national-board-publications>. By the end of 2025, it is anticipated by the NBSCCCI that we will be beginning our review process looking at practice under the three standards of our current Church policy (2024). We fully expect that the significant improvements in practice that were evidenced by previous reviews from 2016 to 2024 will continue as the Church strives to ensure that ministry for and with children within the Church is safe and welcoming.

The safeguarding in formation training (Head to Heart programme) has continued over the last twelve months and the success of this programme is seen in the engagement, strong discussion and commitment of those taking part. The programme was extended to include the permanent diaconate in 2022 and this year has seen the completion of one

full cycle of the programme. Details of this and all training can be read from page 19 below.

In November of 2024 I was delighted to present at the Conference hosted in Rome by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. Teresa Devlin and I were able to brief the attendees on the child safeguarding journey undertaken so far by the Catholic Church in Ireland as well as considering the work yet to be completed. Part of that work includes a constant reflection and revision on how we engage with those who have been hurt in the Church in Ireland, and this will be taken further in our National Conference planned for September 2025. The theme of the Conference will be *'Towards a restorative and transitional justice approach to engaging with victims and survivors of abuse'* where we will hope to learn from the past and shape the future by utilising the experiences of all of us alongside academic research findings.

We continue, of course, to regularly review and update our own compliance with civil legislation and guidance. To assist with this, we have met during the year with senior representatives of An Garda Síochána and Tusla as well as with the SBNI (Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland). These relationships are crucial in ensuring we constantly update and amend our policy and guidance to reflect the latest requirements and demands of the statutory agencies charged with protecting children across the island. I would like to thank those statutory agencies for their on-going support and assure them of our cooperation and commitment to maintaining those high standards into the future.

The Directors of the NBSCCCI set the strategic direction and oversee the work of the National Office staff. The skills and expertise of the Directors are called on in a wide variety of ways, and they together with the office staff, negotiate challenges including managing the risks involved in changing personnel, data protection, charities regulations and compliance, legislation, financial controls and many other strategic management matters. I am grateful to them for their welcome and support of myself in my role as CEO along with their time, commitment, and due diligence in directing the work of the NBSCCCI.



As we continue to evaluate our current practice in the Church in Ireland we have established a subgroup to consider applications for Associate Membership of the NBSCCCI. This subgroup has dealt with a number of applications to date from organisations that, while Catholic in nature and origin, are not members of either the IEC or AMRI. It is hoped the ongoing efforts of this subgroup will assist in ensuring anyone who ministers with children in the Catholic Church in Ireland does so while adhering to the requirements of the NBSCCCI policy and guidance.

As my predecessor, Teresa has always maintained, it is the staff of the National Office who have contributed so much over the past year to ensuring the objectives of the NBSCCCI are met. We are fortunate to have and attract such hard working skilled people in the NBSCCCI, and I want to formally thank Lyn, Ann and Imelda for their continued commitment to our important work.

We are also acutely aware that safeguarding of children does not take place in offices, but in parishes and churches around the country where children are actively participating in the life of the Church. The NBSCCCI would like to thank all of the clergy and religious who, together with local Safeguarding staff and volunteers, ensure those activities are safe and provide the reassurance that parents require when deciding to bring their children to the Church. Your continued commitment will assist to alleviate the risk that any complacency might creep into our practice and ensure we maintain our vigilance against those who would seek to harm the most vulnerable in our Church, and for that we are grateful.

Aidan Gordon
Chief Executive Officer
June 2025

Corporate Governance



The Directors of the Board met with the CEO on 10 (ten) occasions between April 2024 and March 2025. The AGM was held in June 2024 and was attended by the Board Directors along with representatives of the IEC and AMRI.

The Board has a number of key roles, these include developing strategy, ensuring that resources are managed efficiently, adhering to Company and Charity law and regulations, and quality assuring the work of the National Office. The Directors reviewed income and expenditure at each Board meeting, and received an external audit of accounts. The Directors are satisfied that there is good financial governance and oversight of the NBSCCCI's financial resources.

An annual self-audit was undertaken by the Board Directors during 24/25 which reviewed areas such as the conduct of Board business, the management of meetings, and the effectiveness of the Chair and Directors.

The following items were considered at the Board meetings:

- Charities Governance Code – The NBSCCCI Charities Compliance Notification was submitted to the Regulator in September 2024, along with the audited accounts. Directors considered requirements to ensure compliance. The Directors' assessment is that the NBSCCCI is a 'Non-Complex' Charity, in line with the characteristics set out in guidance from the Charities Regulator.¹
- Risk Register
The Risk Register was considered at Board meetings on 3 (three) occasions, and it was amended in light of the risk presented by a changeover in key personnel within the National Office staff in 2024. The Board were satisfied that control measures such as inductions into roles and probation reviews reduced any potential risks.
- Operational Plan 2025-2028

¹ Charities Regulator (2021) Charities Governance Code Complex and Non-Complex Charities, accessible at, <https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/media/2225/complex-and-non-complex-charities.pdf>



The following specific Objectives were set for 2024/25

Objective	Progress
Following the induction of the new policy, <i>A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024</i> , the NBSCCCI will assist each Church body and authority to embed the policy into the day-today work of the Church through the provision of a comprehensive and appropriate training programme supported with advice.	<p>Induction sessions on the new policy began in March 2024 and have continued to date across the country.</p> <p>The NBSCCCI website has been updated to reflect the new policy and the updated guidance reflecting the standards and criteria of the policy.</p> <p>https://www.safeguarding.ie/news-events/events</p>
Draft a Strategic Plan for 2025–28 that identifies how the NBSCCCI will support good child safeguarding practice within the Catholic Church in Ireland.	<p>The Strategic Plan for 2025–2028 has been completed and was approved at a NBSCCCI board meeting on the 16th of October 2024. A copy of the Strategic plan can be viewed at https://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Corporate_Publications/Strategic%20plan%202025-2028.pdf</p>
Plan for a National Safeguarding Conference in 2025 on transitional-justice approaches to engaging with victims and survivors of abuse in the Catholic Church in Ireland.	<p>The NBSCCCI conference on “<i>Towards a restorative and transitional justice model of engaging with victims and survivors in the Catholic Church in Ireland</i>” takes place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of September 2025.</p>
Develop guidance and training for those in leadership roles on the use of appropriate support and supervision mechanisms to enable them to meet the leadership and accountability requirements of the new policy, <i>A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024</i> .	<p>Training has been undertaken on Resilience and Supervision in Leadership in February 2025 along with training for new Church Authorities and DLP’s also in February 2025.</p> <p>Guidance for leadership on appropriate support and supervision mechanisms has been created.</p>

A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024.



The 11th of June 2024 saw the release of the Church policy on Child safeguarding. The revised policy entitled; *A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024* was the outcome of a two year collaborative exercise across the Church in Ireland and further afield.

Significant consultation was undertaken through listening and discussion meetings with children and their carers; victims and survivors of abuse; respondents; Church personnel; external statutory partners (Tusla, HSCT) other experts in child safeguarding and those involved in formulating international best practice. It was precipitated by changes in legislation and canon law since the introduction of the previous policy in 2016 and is designed to reflect the responsibilities which have been brought into effect such as Mandated Reporting. It also reflects the leadership and accountability measures introduced through 'Vos Estis Lux Mundi'.

The Steering group for the development of the policy, which comprised staff and Directors of the NBSCCCI along with Church leaders and other personnel involved in safeguarding within the Church, were instrumental in identifying the principles that the policy focuses on. The NBSCCCI wishes to acknowledge the hard work and support of these individuals in identifying and shaping the working principles and indeed formulating the policy itself across the two years of its creation.

Those principles that underpin the policy are:

Ministry with Children
Based on Scripture

Ministry with Children based on
National Law, Canon Law and
Government Regulation

Ministry with Children based on the
Constitution of Ireland, Children's Rights
and International Treaties

Caring for Complainants

Providing a Fair and Just Process for
Respondents

Acknowledging the Safeguarding Journey
of the Church



The policy has three standards

- Leadership, Governance and Accountability,
- Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding
- Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law.

Each of the standards comprises of a number of criteria, which guide the Church to best practice in the challenges of safeguarding. Attached to the criteria are a number of indicators which are the practical measures that provide evidence of the safeguarding practice and which can be used to measure adherence to the requirements of the policy. The illustration below illustrates each standard interlocking with the next and that none takes precedence over the other.

In preparation for the release of the Church policy on child safeguarding induction training was implemented across the Church from March of 2024. This training is discussed further on Page 19.



Data Protection



Data Protection continues to be a significant focus for the NBSCCCI. Since the introduction of GDPR and its enshrinement in legislation in Ireland and Northern Ireland, extensive internal work has been undertaken to ensure compliance with protection principles and legislation.

Data Sharing

As a non-statutory body with regulatory functions, there are barriers relating to sharing of personal sensitive data with the NBSCCCI. During 2024/25, the NBSCCCI sought further senior counsel opinion in continued efforts to be compliant with legislation in its role as a data processor and occasional data controller. Discussions are ongoing on the best mechanism to ensure the NBSCCCI adhere to all of its legal requirements while ensuring information is appropriately shared that will contribute to keeping children safe.

In addition, during October of 2024 the CEO and Director of Training and Support/DPO met with the Data Commissioner and members of his team. This meeting further supported the work of the NBSCCCI in ensuring best practice when managing data.

In order to avoid any data protection concerns, the NBSCCCI continues to ask that personal data not be shared by a Church body when it requests advice (i.e. any data that identifies or could identify a living individual) or when it notifies the NBSCCCI of an allegation of abuse against one of its members.

Memorandum of Understanding and Data Processing Deeds.

The NBSCCCI sets out its commitment and the measures taken to protect the data of those supported through memorandum of understanding documents and through data processing deeds. These documents have been updated to reflect Church policy: *A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024*. In January 2025, the updated documents were forwarded to all Church authorities for review and to be signed and returned to the NBSCCCI. The NBSCCCI office staff continue to work and support Church bodies with this project.



Allegations notified to the National Office between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.



The NBSCCCI continues to receive notification of historical cases of abuse; this year has seen a startling rise in reported cases. The increase in notifications was noted to occur following the release of the O’Toole report also known as the *Scoping Inquiry*, which looked into historical sexual abuse in day and boarding schools run by religious orders. The statistics for notifications per month are reported in Table 2 below.

As previously referenced, data protection legislation prevents sharing of special category data with the NBSCCCI. This means that when notifications are received they do not contain any identifying information. The purpose of the notification is so the NBSCCCI can fulfill its role of monitoring that the allegation has been reported to the relevant statutory authority agency, and to monitor that

risk is being assessed appropriately. However, as the information received is anonymised, there is no ability to cross-reference to establish whether the respondent is already known, or to check if the allegation may already have been reported to the NBSCCCI by an alternative source, or if there has been more than one allegation against the same respondent.

The NBSCCCI received 385 child protection notifications against clergy and male and female religious between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Chart 1 sets out the allegations notified to the NBSCCCI since the start of its Annual Reports in 2009 for comparison purposes. This reporting year has seen the highest number of allegations since reporting by NBSCCCI began in 2009.

Chart 1

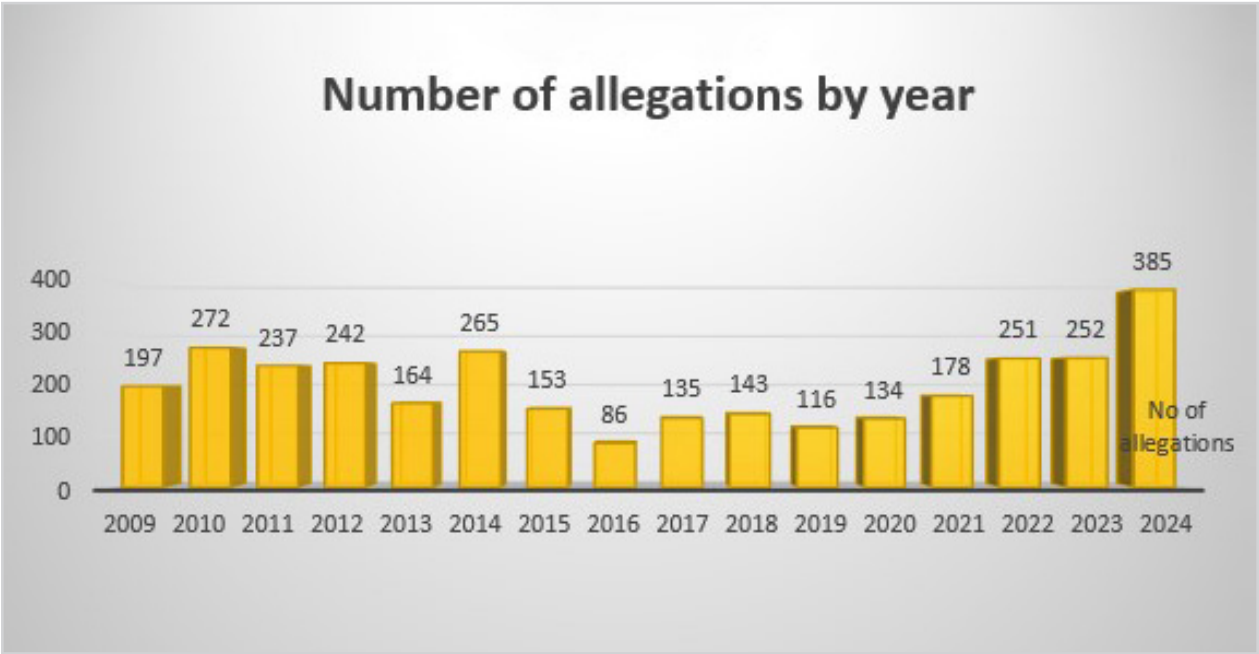


Table 1 sets out the decade which the allegations relate to. As has been the pattern in recent years it can be noted that the vast majority of the allegations relate to the period from 1960 to 1989, with Table 1 illustrating that 282 of the 385, or 73%, are in this category. Only 2, or less than 0.5%, relate to the period post-2000. This should be caveated with the fact that 47, or 12%, did not have a definite timeframe attributed to them.

Table 1

Year of abuse if given or unknown	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s	Unknown	Total
Diocese	0	6	3	6	22	3	0	1	1	2	44
Religious	3	28	77	105	69	11	0	0	0	45	338
Other	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	3	34	81	111	92	14	0	1	2	47	385

Table 2, sets out the notifications received monthly from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.

The majority of allegations received (291) state sexual abuse as the major abuse; there were a further 55 allegations of physical abuse, 4 boundary violation, 1 neglect, 1 emotional, 1 bullying and 32 cases of alleged abuse for which the type was not provided. In some cases notified, particularly in relation to sexual abuse, emotional abuse is also noted on the referral form.

In the context of this information below, Column 4 “Other” refers to allegations made where the respondent was unknown or from an Order or Diocese external to Ireland.

Table 2

Month	Diocese by number reported	Religious by number reported	Other:	Type of abuse by number reported
April 2024	8	11		Sexual 15 (9 Religious & 6 Diocesan) Physical 1 (1R) Boundary Violation 1 (1D) Unknown 2 (1D & 1R)
May 2024	2	24	1	Sexual 22 (19R & 2D & 1 Other) Physical 3 (3R) Boundary Violation 2 (2R)
June 2024	2	7		Sexual 9 (7R & 2D)
July 2024	5	16		Sexual 20 (15R & 5D) Physical 1 (1R)



Month	Diocese by number reported	Religious by number reported	Other:	Type of abuse by number reported
August 2024	2	7		Sexual 8 (6R & 2D) Physical 1 (1R)
September 2024	9	31		Sexual 31 (22R & 9D) Physical 7 (7R) Unknown 2 (2R)
October 2024	2	62		Sexual 43 (42R & 1D) Physical 12 (12R) Unknown 7 (6R & 1D) Bullying 1 (1R) Emotional 1 (1R)
November 2024	2	46	2	Sexual 32 (29R & 1D & 2 Other) Physical 12 (1D & 11R) Neglect 1 (1R) Unknown 5 (5R)
December 2024	1	56		Sexual 46 (45R & 1D) Physical 7 (7R) Unknown 4 (4R)
January 2025	2	34		Sexual 27 (26R & 1D) Physical 4 (4R) Boundary Violation 1 (1D) Unknown 4 (4R)
February 2025	3	25		Sexual 20 (18R & 2D) Physical 4 (3R & 1D) Unknown 4 (4R)
March 2025	6	19		Sexual 18 (12R & 6D) Physical 3(3R) Unknown 4 (4R)
Total	44	338	3	385

Further information that can be deduced from the notifications indicates 385 allegations were made against 376 respondents as follows:

Table 3

Diocesan	Religious		Other (Unknown Respondents)
39 Male	334	16 Female	3 (Male)
		318 Male	

Table 4 - Status of Diocesan Clergy – all forms of abuse –39 individuals

Deceased	Laicised	In ministry	Retired	In Prison	Under management plan	Out of ministry	Unknown
20	3	1	0	3	4	4	4

Table 5 - Status of Religious – all forms of abuse – 334

Deceased	Laicised	In ministry	Retired	Living in Nursing Home	In Prison	Under management plan	Left Church Body	Unknown	Out of Ministry
221	5	5	0	0	31	21	12	22	17

We can see from these tables that 241, or 64%, of the 376 accused are deceased. Of the remainder 34 (9%) are in prison, a further 25 (7%) are subject to a management plan while 52 (14%) have either been laicised, left the Church Body or are out of ministry. “Other” as outlined in Table 2 above are not reflected in these figures.

Strategic Review of National Safeguarding Arrangements

In 2022, the IEC and AMRI commissioned RSM Ireland to conduct a Strategic Review of Safeguarding in the Church. This organisation examined the work of the NBSCCCI, Towards Peace, and Towards Healing.

The full RSM report was released and published on both websites on December 4th, 2024. The IEC and AMRI have established a group to consider the report recommendations and invited the NBSCCCI to participate in this work. The NBSCCCI have accepted that invitation and look forward to beginning that work soon.



Initiatives and Advice



With the release of the revised Church Policy; *A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024* there was also a requirement to update the Child Safeguarding statement guidance provided by the NBSCCCI. The Child Safeguarding statement is a requirement in the Republic of Ireland under the Children First Act 2015. The 2024 template of the child safeguarding statement was reviewed on a number of occasions between April and June 2024 by the Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit (CSSCU). The CSSCU is a dedicated Unit within Tusla set up for the purpose of ensuring that Child Safeguarding Statements (CSS) where required are compliant with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015. The reviewed and agreed template child safeguarding statement was then released on the 11th of June 2024.

A large area of the work of the NBSCCCI is providing advice to Church leaders and other Church personnel on all aspects of child

safeguarding. The NBSCCCI is also tasked with the creation and publication of guidance that supports Church authorities in the implementation of the three safeguarding standards. This guidance is based on best practice and is, where possible, created in collaboration with statutory authorities.

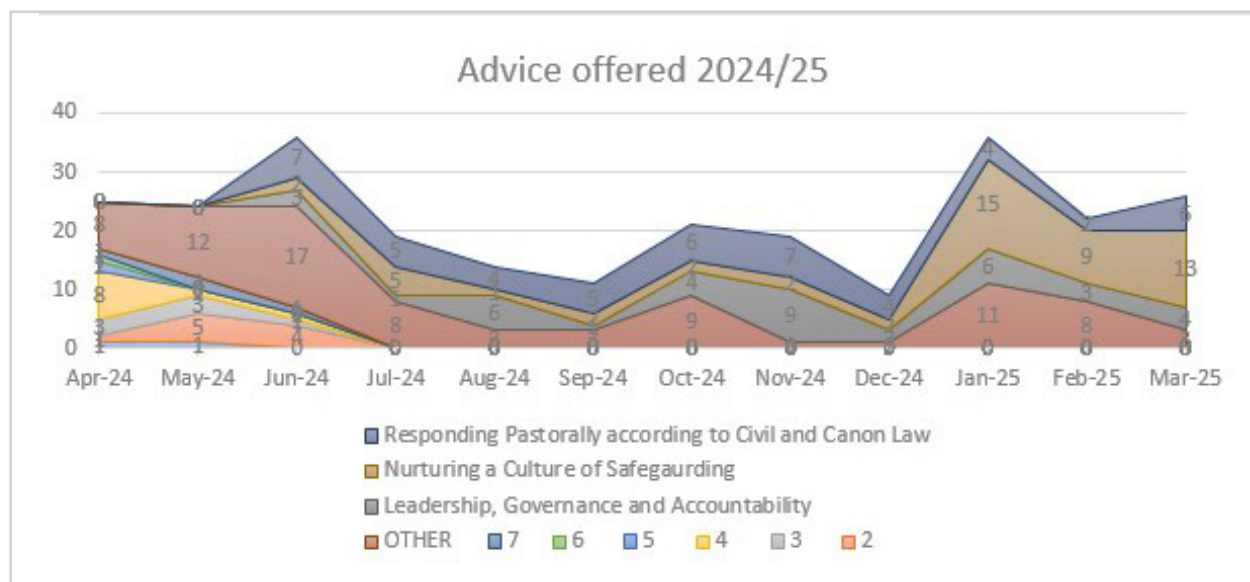
Prior to the release of the current child safeguarding policy on the 11th of June 2024, the 2016 policy for the Church was based on seven standards. Table 6 sets out the advice offered by National Office staff in relation to each of the seven standards which were then amalgamated into three standards from June 2024.

On 287 occasions during 2024/25, advice was sought from National Office staff in relation to safeguarding matters. Church personnel generally approach the National Office on matters of complexity and queries often relate to the management of cases and to the promotion of good safeguarding practice across religious orders and dioceses.

Table 6 - Total advice offered under all Standards, by year:

2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/24	2024/25
392	258	281	287

Chart 2



As outlined on Page 4, the Church child safeguarding policy is now focused under three standards

1. Standard: Leadership, Governance and Accountability
2. Standard: Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding
3. Standard: Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law

The section that follows is set out under the three standard headings and informs the reader of the typical advice requested under that standard.

Standard: Leadership, Governance and Accountability

This standard reflects the importance of strong leadership in safeguarding. The Church authority embodies and imparts the Catholic Church's vision, principles and values, which are reflected and apparent in the child safeguarding culture, structures and practices at all levels and in all ministries with children. Meeting criteria for this standard involves demonstrating through sermons, pastoral letters, addresses to meetings, newsletters, face-to-face meetings and personal engagement the Church authority's commitment to fulfil the safeguarding mission of the Church. This standard requires the Church authority to commit to decisive action in

safeguarding matters and to ensure training, support and care for those in safeguarding ministry.

Advice requested and offered under this standard most often involved support ensuring a robust annual self-audit is completed by the Church authority.

Standard: Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding

This standard involves every aspect of the day to day measures that happen across the Church in order to ensure safe environments for children. The standard places responsibility on the Church to ensure children are welcomed, their wellbeing promoted and their rights respected. Criteria to be achieved by the Church authority include appropriate structures for recruitment and vetting of all in ministry with children, procedures for dealing with complaints, codes of behaviour for adults and children along with a focus on risk management.

Advice requested and offered under this standard most often involved support with recruitment or Garda Vetting.



Standard: Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law

This standard looks at responding with support and care to complainants of abuse and their families, and ensuring appropriate accompaniment for respondents. The Church must ensure a fair and just process of inquiry and equip and support those tasked with responding to allegations with necessary training and skills.

Advice requested and offered under this standard most often involved support with case management.

National Case Management Committee (NCMC)

National Case Management Committee (NCMC) meetings were held in Maynooth. Membership of the Committee changed during the year with the retirement of Mr. Phil Mortell. The NBSCCCI would like to thank Phil for his support and indeed guidance in many areas of safeguarding children over the last decade.

The Committee met three (3) times during 2024/25, and offered advice on five (5) cases, three (3) relating to

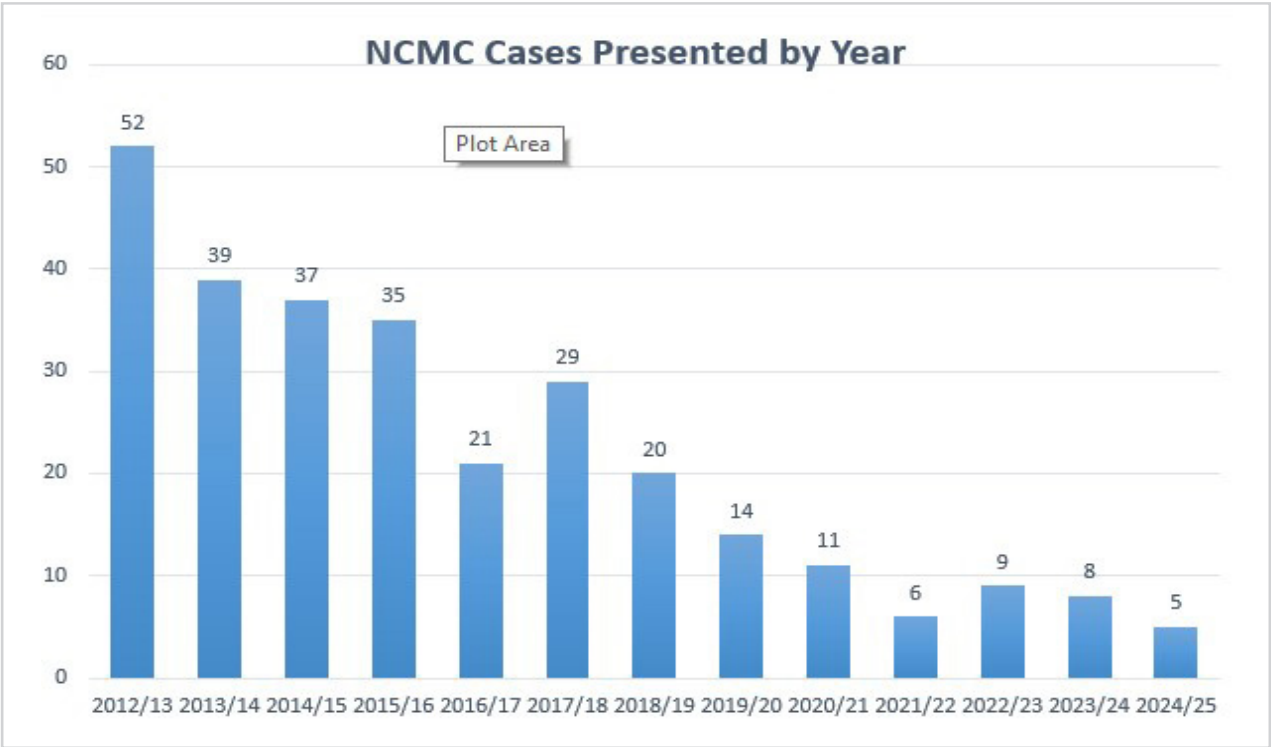
diocesan priests, and two (2) relating to members of religious orders.

A review of the last 13 years of operation has shown a pattern of decline in numbers of cases being presented to NCMC as shown in Chart 3.

The advice sought by and given to the Church authority by the NCMC is usually related to very complex cases, often in connection with conducting canonical inquiries, or following inquiries, in determining whether there is a case to answer. Given the serious nature of these cases, the experience and expertise of the Committee members is invaluable in assisting a Church leader to make a determination about the future ministry of a cleric or religious.

The NCMC committee members provide their expert and independent advice on risk assessment and case management as external practitioners who can consider the information and offer objective opinion. They are often able to assist in clarifying issues and assessing whether the allegation requires restrictions on ministry as a means of safeguarding children.

Chart 3



Quality-Assuring Compliance with the Standards

The mechanism for ensuring quality at local level is an annual self-audit conducted in parishes and religious communities where there is ministry with children or where the Church body is managing allegations. The annual self-audit should be a robust examination against the criteria of the standards and it should involve the identification of actions to bring the Church body into compliance with the standards.

The Safeguarding Committee of the Church body should examine the audit and the subsequent action plan implemented to address any deficits in safeguarding. The annual self-audit falls within standard Leadership, Governance and Accountability. The Committee provides the Church authority with information on what is working well, and on what areas are in need of improvement. This information assists the Church body to set safeguarding objectives for the following year.

In addition to the self-audit, the Church body arranges compliance visits and the relevant Designated Liaison Person (DLP) produces an annual report to their Church authority on cases that have been on going during the year. The NBSCCCI requests each Church authority to confirm that these quality assurance measures have taken place.

The figures below reflect the information about self-audits received by the NBSCCCI from religious congregations and dioceses in 2024/25.

Table 7 (records up to 30th April 2025)

Complete		In Process		Self-Audit not required	
Diocese	Religious Orders	Dioceses	Religious Orders	Dioceses	Religious
26	54	0	4	0	76

NBSCCCI Reviews of Safeguarding Practice in Church bodies

The second round of NBSCCCI Reviews was completed with the publication of the final report under the 2016 policy on 12/03/2025. First reviews under the 2016 policy commenced in 2018, but because of the pandemic there was a pause in 2020 and 2021.

With the release of the 2024 policy, it is expected that reviews under this policy will commence in 2026.

The NBSCCCI is currently recruiting for the post of Director of Safeguarding and this person will have responsibility, with the CEO, for establishing a revised objective audit methodology, which will focus on the criteria of the Policy: *A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024*.

Reports of all previous Reviews can be found at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/publications/national-board-publications>

The religious congregations where reviews were completed and published during 2024 and under the previous 2016 policy are:

- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd,
- De La Salle Brothers of Ireland,
- Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers)
- Irish Province of the Order of Carmelites.



Training and Support

The Training and Support Strategy covering the period from 2023 to 2025 is coming to an end with many actions completed across the last two years. This strategy can be viewed at https://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Training_Resources/Training%20and%20Support%20Strategy%202023-2025.pdf.

The strategy focused on three objectives:

- Supporting individual Church bodies to develop a culture of safeguarding.
- Formation and continuous development.
- Developing and implementing safeguarding practice.

These objectives were achieved through the following actions:

- Building competence and skills at local level.
- Training and supporting trainers.
- Facilitating national training events.
- Facilitating a national formation training programme.
- Supporting child safeguarding internationally.
- Developing policy, guidance and resources.
- Responding to emerging issues to support best practice.

From March 2024 formal induction sessions in the revised child safeguarding policy *A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024* were scheduled across the country. The NBSCCCI is grateful for the support of all across the Church in making these induction sessions successful. Particular thanks is given to the Church leaders who hosted induction events across the whole of Ireland.

In the 17 sessions presented by the NBSCCCI, 734 individuals attended. The NBSCCCI has also supported safeguarding personnel to deliver the training locally to its constituents.



Teresa Devlin is presented with flowers to mark her retirement by Bishop Alan McGuckian at the Induction session for the new Policy held in Down and Conor in April 2024.

Over the past year, and hand in hand with the release of the revised child safeguarding policy, there has been a full review of all training delivered by NBSCCCI registered trainers at local level.

The review was undertaken in order to ascertain what challenges trainers experienced in the delivery of training and what training updates were required to bring the current training in line with the new policy and current legislation. The Director of Training and Support undertook the review with the assistance of the seven Tutors across the country. The review was across several areas:

- A survey was created which set out five questions. The questions ranged from asking what challenges were experienced in the delivery of the content of each of the five modules to asking what interactive tips or ideas Trainers used to engage those attending.
- A series of follow up meetings were held in six locations around the country to listen to the experiences and ideas of Trainers.

Following on from the survey and the listening meetings the work of updating the training and the training manual began. In October the updated manual was sent to print, new content sent to all trainers and placed on the NBSCCCI website.

96 trainers are registered with the NBSCCCI a number of these are new trainers completing their accreditation during March and April of 2025. These trainers across the country play a key role in supporting the work of safeguarding at all levels. Their valuable skills, dedication and input is hugely valued by the NBSCCCI. To all trainers, the NBSCCCI offer a big “thank you” for the dedication, hard work and support they bring to the role.

Review of Objectives:

a) Building Competence and Skills at Local Level

One of the roles of the NBSCCCI is to assist local Church personnel to implement the safeguarding standards set out in *A Safe and Welcoming Church; Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024*. To assist with this, local training is provided to Church personnel that is tailored to the individual needs of each Church body.

- **Safeguarding Committee Training**
Safeguarding Committees are important components of the safeguarding structure and they exist to support the Church authority to ensure that the practical elements or criteria of a standard; Leadership Governance and Accountability, Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding and Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law are implemented and effective locally within each Church body.

In this reporting year, this training was delivered on three occasions and involved an outline of the policy and the criteria to be met.

- **Specific Training**

It is a responsibility of the NBSCCCI's Director of Training and Support to recognise diverse needs across the Church. The NBSCCCI develop and deliver specific training to meet the unique needs and challenges of each Church body. This year specific training was developed and delivered five times (three dioceses and two religious orders); and topics covered included training for new Designated Liaison Persons (DLP), training on the history of safeguarding in Ireland, training on annual self-audits, and the use of IT.

b) Training and Supporting Trainers

As outlined above it is important for the NBSCCCI to listen to trainers and ensure that their experiences, challenges and successes are reflected in any updates made to the training.

Trainers are supported by the Director of Training and Support, alongside tutors in each of the four Ecclesiastical Provincial Areas of the Church in Ireland. The NBSCCCI keeps in contact with trainers updating them via email and arranging meet ups to involve them in any of the changes that need to be made in the training material. In the last twelve months a number of trainers have stepped back from their training role. However, in the last twelve months two sessions of *Train the Trainer* have meant that 24 new trainers have been accredited by the NBSCCCI.

- **Local Safeguarding Awareness Training**
This year, NBSCCCI registered trainers held 359 training events and trained 6421 people. This represents a considerable increase from last year's figure of 5163.



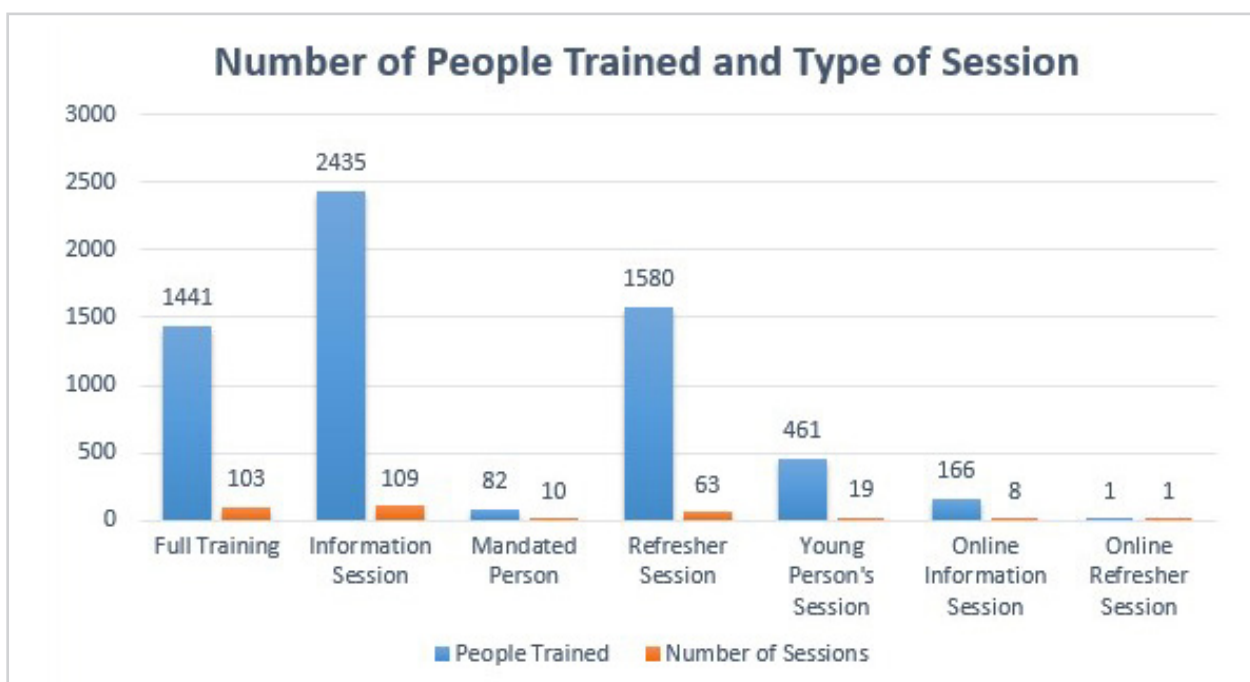
Chart 4



These training figures in Chart 4 are based on the returns received from each of the trainers registered.

Chart 5 illustrates the type of training delivered. Each session of the NBSCCCI's training programme is shown as to whether it was delivered online or in person.

Chart 5



As can be seen from Chart 5, 103 sessions of full child safeguarding training have been held across the country in the last 12 months, training 1,400 individuals. Attendance at this training is compulsory for anyone who has a safeguarding role, or who is a cleric or religious in ministry with children. It is required that at least one leader of each group ministering with children should attend this training. While information sessions which are shorter with less group work, these were delivered 109 times to the largest number of people (2400).

In line with best practice, and to ensure the competency of trainers, all trainers are required to undergo an initial assessment by a tutor registered with the NBSCCCI. Following this, trainers are reassessed every three years by one of the NBSCCCI registered tutors.

c) Facilitating National Training Events

A key role of the NBSCCCI is to highlight and encourage best practice, and to share the latest developments in child safeguarding policy, legislation and guidance. A significant number of Induction sessions were held this reporting year with various groups of Church personnel to inform and alert them to the changes in the Church child safeguarding policy.

As part of this objective, the NBSCCCI identifies trends and needs within child safeguarding in order to ensure that Church personnel have the necessary skill to support in a sometimes-challenging environment.

November- Train the Trainers Course (5 days to complete the course)

Applicants who wish to become registered trainers with the NBSCCCI must undertake a five-day-long training and assessment process, which includes developing knowledge in relation to safeguarding children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, group work, and general facilitation skills. After this process is completed the applicant, in their own local Church body, delivered a final day, where a NBSCCCI tutor assesses their training delivery. The process in its entirety is of six days duration.

Resilience and Supervision in Leadership

Through the revised policy, *A Safe and Welcoming Church: Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024* the area of support for Church Leaders is considered, specifically the decision making responsibilities and potential isolation of the role. There is an emphasis on training for leadership, induction into safeguarding roles and continuous professional and personal development.

With the above in mind, the NBSCCCI supported the development of a training piece that looks at creating and maintaining resilience along with the benefits of robust strategies such as supervision. Una Allen of *Towards Peace* along with Fr Brian Kavanagh, National Co-Ordinator of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate and a qualified psychotherapist facilitated a full day around building and maintaining resilience and understanding what supervision is and its potential benefits.

March 26th 28th April 9th 10th 15th 16th 17th 18th 23rd and 30th 2nd May – Induction to the new Policy training

Induction to the revised Safeguarding Children Policy, entitled – *A Safe and Welcoming Church, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024*. Providing all with an opportunity to hear about the new policy, ask questions and discuss any concerns.

February 20, 2025- Training for New Church Authorities

This training was organised specifically for Church leaders to induct them into their strategic role in relation to child safeguarding. The day covered a range of topics relating to safeguarding including:

- The strategic role of the Church authority in relation to safeguarding.
- Pastoral ministry and safeguarding.
- The importance of governance.



February 26, 2025 – Designated Liaison Person training

The NBSCCCI hosted and presented a full day training with an experienced Social Worker and DLP Julie McCullough co-facilitating. This training was designed for people who had recently taken on the role of Designated Liaison Person or Deputy DLP, or who had never been able to attend role specific training before. It covered the following areas:

- Clarifying the role of DLP
- Hearing safeguarding concerns and record keeping
- Communication and supervision
- Conducting an internal report on cases for the Church authority

d) Facilitating National Formation Training Programme

Head to Heart

The Head to Heart is a formation programme, which seeks to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the core elements of child safeguarding. The NBSCCCI has worked with seminarians in formation from St Patrick's College Maynooth; Redemptoris Mater, Dundalk; and the Pontifical Irish College Rome, for over ten years and introduced this modular programme in 2018 to develop a deeper understanding of promoting good safeguarding practice, caring for complainants of abuse, and ensuring reports are made in a timely fashion. The Head to Heart formation programme has developed significantly in the last five years.

In the reporting year, two induction sessions, along with the following six modules were delivered over six days:

- Boundaries - This module was designed to allow participants to consider the concept of boundaries and how good management of self links with integrity in ministry and child safeguarding.
- Impacts of Abuse - This module included input from a survivor of abuse, and included

content on reporting allegations and the impact that abuse has on the individual, their family and their community.

- Theology and Safeguarding (two dates one in each seminary) – To provide an opportunity for reflection on the importance of safeguarding within sacred texts (scripture) and sacred traditions of the Church.
- The History and legislative context – To set the current situation in the context of public inquiries; legislation and Vatican Norms.
- Children's Rights; To provide an overview of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; obligations on signatories (The Holy See; Republic of Ireland and N. Ireland as part of the UK). To explore how to translate the articles of the Convention into practice with specific reference to priestly ministry.

In addition to these modules for seminarians, the NBSCCCI adapted the programme for those training to be permanent deacons. During 2024/5 an induction session was delivered to five individuals. In addition, the first module of the programme was delivered to ten individuals in October of 2024 and the final of the three modules delivered to 27 individuals in February 2025.

Pastoral Theology Students - St Patrick's College Maynooth

Staff from the NBSCCCI delivered training on safeguarding to pastoral theology students in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth to ensure the students were informed about the creation and maintenance of safe environments for children, as well as about how to respond to allegations and disclosures of abuse prior to undertaking their pastoral placement. The students and the NBSCCCI facilitator then held a reflection session following placements to explore how the students found safeguarding measures within their work environments.

In addition, staff from the NBSCCCI facilitated training on the new Youth Ministry programme within St Patrick's College Maynooth.

Loreto House Religious Formation Programme

Staff from the NBSCCCI delivered training to students in the formation programme in Loreto House, Dublin in November of 2024. The students consisted of ordained or vowed religious from countries across the world who attend Loreto House as part of their formation. The input by the NBSCCCI focused on the development of the safeguarding standards and in particular on how to create and maintain safe environments.

e) Supporting Child Safeguarding Internationally

Religious congregations based in Ireland may also have missions abroad. For some of these, the religious leaders have concerns about how well safeguarding practice is developed in the countries in which they minister. Guidance on creating international safeguarding policies forms part of the Standard: Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding.

f) Developing Policy, Guidance and Resources

To support the implementation of *A Safe and Welcoming Church: Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2024*, the NBSCCCI revised and updated its optional web based guidance. This guidance is to be used as appropriate when a concerning matter arises. By its nature, it is open to review and revision following changes to legislation, regulation, canon law, and developments in best practice and experience. Since the release of the new policy and standards in June 2024 aspects of the guidance have been updated eight times

Changes to the guidance focused on the following areas:

- Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding: Template S10: Example International Child Safeguarding Policy added.
- Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding: S5.A Blank Risk assessment template added.
- Clarification on the role of the relevant person along with a definition of the mandated person role added to Appendix A.
- Leadership Governance and Accountability: Updates to L1.A Guidance on developing a communications plan.

- Nurturing a Culture of Safeguarding: Updates to guidance S2.B on delivery of basic safeguarding awareness training.
- Leadership Governance and Accountability: Updates to Guidance L2.C on Annual Self-Audit.
- Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law: Updates to R1.A Guidance on reporting suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse.
- Responding Pastorally according to Civil and Canon Law: Updates to R1.D Guidance on reporting allegations against deceased clerics or religious.

g) Responding to Emerging Issues to Support Best Practice

Briefing Papers

All briefing papers can be viewed here <https://www.safeguarding.ie/publications/national-board-publications>.

Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meetings

The NBSCCCI facilitates Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meetings at least once a year. This year four meetings were held, one in Dublin, one in Tuam, one in Armagh and one in Cashel & Emly.

The aim of these meetings was for staff from the National Office to meet with bishops, provincials, superiors and safeguarding personnel from Church bodies to discuss developments in child safeguarding across the previous twelve months. Meetings in 2024 focused on the induction to the new policy, interactions with statutory bodies such as An Garda Síochána, Tusla and the Office of the Data Commissioner.

Meetings

Collaboration with Church personnel, other Church bodies, statutory and voluntary partners are crucial to NBSCCCI staff keeping abreast of new developments in safeguarding. During 2024/25, there was a significant increase in collaborative meetings, mainly due to a commitment by the CEO of the NBSCCCI to ensure all key stakeholders had a chance to meet and be made aware of his open door policy.



The following is a listing of the main meetings and their purpose:

For the 2024/25 Reporting Period	Purpose of Meeting
IEC	Working together to develop a piece of safeguarding guidance following Vos estis lux mundi (VELM)
Safeguarding across denominational network meeting	Network meeting of those in safeguarding across a number of religious based organisations and Churches to share best practice.
National Protective Services Bureau	Updates provided by the Bureau following the publication of the Scoping Enquiry report.
Tusla	Various – policy, procedure and practice issues
Allianz	Discussion on guidance for safeguarding children and adult safeguarding
Permanent Diaconate Team	Meeting with those in charge of the permanent diaconate programme to discuss development of Head to Heart course.
Rector and Formators of St Patricks College Maynooth	Working on Head to Heart
Pastoral Programmes Co-Ordinator	Arranging training for Pastoral Theology candidates on safeguarding.
Rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary	Working on Head to Heart
NSPCC	Liaison over policy formulation
Data Protection Commissioner and members of his team.	Introductory meeting following changes in personnel and an update on data protection strategies measures.
RSM Ireland	Information meeting
Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors	Presentation at conference
One in Four	Safeguarding discussions and collaboration
Church of Ireland	Safeguarding discussions and collaboration
International Safeguarding Conference	Sharing best practice
Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland	Trauma Informed Practices
AMRI & Executive	Providing updates and listening to understand developing issues

For the 2024/25 Reporting Period	Purpose of Meeting
Department of Health (NI)	Child Safeguarding
HSE	Adult Safeguarding
Ombudsman for Children	Safeguarding Children Policy
31:8	Theology of children and best practice in embedding culture of safeguarding
Executive Office Northern Ireland	Liaison on Child Safeguarding
Porticus	NBSCCCI Conference
Enclude	Database support
Department of Health ROI	Safeguarding policy
Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA)	Learning from shared practice
Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland	Attendance at their Conference embedding Trauma Informed Practice across NI
Online The Centre for Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults	Sharing best practice
Order of St Camillus	Safeguarding in Ireland
One in Four	Introduction to CEO and opportunities to share learning
Rector of English College	Head to Heart
Samaritans	Listening to victims
ICPO	Sharing best practice in responding to allegations



Operational Plan and Objectives



The Operational Plan was updated by the CEO and approved by the Board of the NBSCCCI in November 2024.

The following specific objectives will be undertaken in 2025/6

- Hold biannual conference that engages those in the Church around transitional justice.
- Develop a communications plan for the NBSCCCI, which includes ideas to develop better social media presence; an information leaflet on the work of the NBSCCCI and greater accessibility to guidance materials.
- Establish mechanisms for conducting Reviews of Practice in Church bodies in 2026, including recruitment of Independent Reviewers.
- Produce 2 GAP papers on relevant safeguarding issues.
- Engage with parents and young people involved in Church activities in order to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of Safeguarding measures in place.

Board and Other Corporate Information



Mr. Garrett Sheehan, Chair to July 2024

Is a former judge of the Irish Court of Appeal, from 2014 to 2017. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal, he was a judge of the Irish High Court from 2007. He was educated at Gonzaga College, University College Dublin and the Law Society of Ireland. He was enrolled as a solicitor in 1969. He is a bencher of the King's Inns. He retired from the bench in 2017. On 9 December 2020, he was appointed by President Michael D. Higgins to the position of Chairperson of the Standards in Public Office Commission. He became Chair of the National Board in January 2022 and retired in June 2024.

Dr. Keith Holmes, appointed Interim Chair in July 2024 and Chair in March 2025

Is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. He was formerly lead clinician and Chairperson of the Medical Board in Lucena Clinic, Dublin, and former Chair of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry within the College of Psychiatry of Ireland. He joined the Board in 2009.

Ms. Marie Kennedy

Has a background in social work and has extensive experience in child protection and welfare with a post-graduate diploma in child protection and an MSc in Health Services Management. Through a range of important assignments, Marie provides significant and extensive experience in all aspects of Children and Family services management. She joined the Board in 2008.

Mr. Jim O'Higgins-Resigned March 2025

Is a practising solicitor and accredited mediator. He was founder member and co-designer of the state Family Mediation Service. He served as honorary

secretary and board member of Cheeverstown, a service for the intellectually challenged. He chaired the Advisory Panel on child abuse for the Ferns Diocese for eight years. He is a former Chairperson of the Peter McVerry Trust and of the board of two national schools in a disadvantaged area in Dublin's North City. He joined the Board in 2013.

Sr Nuala O'Gorman – Resigned December 2024

Is a Sister of Mercy of the Southern Province of the Congregation and is a retired secondary-school teacher. She has served as school principal, Chairperson of the school's Board of Management, and as a member of the Provincial Team in the province. She was a member of the steering group in the Diocese of Cloyne, when child-safeguarding policies were being established, and was a member of the Child Safeguarding Committee in that diocese for a number of years. She is currently one of the victim support persons for the diocese. She joined the Board in October 2017.

Fr. Martin Whelan

Is a priest of the Galway Diocese and is a canon lawyer. He was ordained in 2009 and he has served as the Galway Diocesan Secretary since 2010. In addition to his administrative duties within the diocese, Fr. Martin is curate at Galway Cathedral and chaplain to St Mary's College. Fr Martin has also served as a canon lawyer with the Galway Regional Marriage Tribunal. He joined the Board in February 2021.

Ms. Phil O'Laoide

Is a retired solicitor having practiced for almost 40 years, first in her own general practice, and then for 27 years as managing solicitor and Regional Manager with the Legal Aid Board.



Her expertise was mainly in family, child care law, and human trafficking. Since retirement, she has been the Regional Prison Support Officer for Samaritans Ireland and Branch Prison Liaison Officer for her local Branch of the Samaritans in Athlone. She currently leads the Prison Team, and she trains and supports prisoners to be Samaritan Listeners. She joined the Board in May 2021.

Ms. Gillian McGrath

Gillian has a background in education and is currently a member of the Board of the Education Authority, Northern Ireland. She was formerly the CEO of the Catholic Education Partnership and the Director of Education in the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS); and prior to that, she served as a primary school principal. She was employed by the Education and Training Inspectorate as an inspector of schools in all sectors and phases. Gillian currently works as an independent education adviser. She joined the Board in February 2022.

Fr Joe McDonald – appointed September 2024

Joe McDonald is a priest of the Dublin diocese ordained in 2006. He is presently Parish Priest in St Patrick's and St Brigid's, Celbridge and Straffan.

Members of National Case Management Committee

Mr. Iarfhlaith O'Neill: Chair - retired High Court Judge

Mr. Aidan Gordon: National Board CEO, Secretary to NCMC

Sr Helen O'Riordan: Loreto Sister, Ferns Diocese. Experience in the area of pastoral Support for Victims

Fr Michael Mullaney: Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly – Canon Lawyer

Mr. Peter Kieran: Ex HSE senior Child Care manager, with experience from Waterford and Lismore Diocesan Case Management Panel in risk assessment and management

Mr. Phil Mortell: Ex HSE senior Child Care manager, and Designated Person for the Redemptorist congregation. Resigned November 2024.

Ann Confrey: Civil Lawyer, formerly worked with Mason Hayes and Curran

Fr Brendan O'Rourke: Therapist with respondents

Ms. Miriam Tallon: Former Probation Officer

Management of National Office

Mr. Aidan Gordon: Chief Executive Officer, (appointed April 2024. Aidan is a qualified Social Worker with over 30 years' experience in safeguarding practice and management. He is a former Assistant Director of the Western Health and Social Care Trust and from 2015 until 2024 was the Director of Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Armagh.

Ms. Carolyn McDermott: Director of Training and Support – Lyn has worked in the social care field since qualifying as a social care practitioner in 1992. Lyn has worked within the disability and mental health sectors in frontline, supervisory and management roles. She has worked in learning and development for the last number of years.

Ms. Imelda Ashe: Company Secretary and Administrator.

Ms. Ann Cunningham: Administrator.

Training Tutors: Fr Paddy Boyle, Julie McCullough, Eleanor Kelly, Avril Halley, Kevin Duffy, Garry Kehoe and Caroline Brogan - supporting the Director of Training and Support in the delivery of the Training and Support Strategy.

Other Corporate Information

The Members of the Board comprise the Directors of Coimirce, a company limited by guarantee without a share capital (Co. Number 465899). The Members of Coimirce comprise nominees of each of the Episcopal Conference of Irish Bishops and AMRI (Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland). The Episcopal Conference of Irish Bishops and A.M.R.I. are described as the 'Sponsoring Bodies' of the National Board in this report.

The registered office and address of Coimirce is New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Company Secretary: Imelda Ashe

Website Address: www.safeguarding.ie



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

